
ICANN81 | AGM – ICANN81 Fellowship and NextGen@ICANN Programs Participants Meet and Greet Session
Saturday, November 9, 2024 - 9:00 to 10:00 TRT

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Hello and welcome. Welcome to today's session. My name is Deborah Escalera, and I am the Participation Manager for today's session. Please note that this session is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. During this session, questions and comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. Interpretation for this session will include English, French, Spanish, Arabic, and Turkish. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. On-site participants will use physical microphones to speak. Please state your name for the record, the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English, and speak at a reasonable pace. With that, I will hand the floor back over to Siranush.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Deborah. Hello, everyone, and my name is Siranush Vardanyan. You may have heard my name for the last couple of months, especially those who were fellows and who are selected for ICANN 81. I am managing the fellowship program, and it's my honor and pleasure to welcome all fellows and selected Next-Geners to this session and all the newcomers, because this session is open for everyone to come. I would like to start with asking one question. Especially to those who are for the first time here, this will be your opportunity to, like, click on the

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mic and try it, test it, and just tell me one word. What is your expectation from your participation at ICANN 81? Just one word.

PARTICIPANTS: Knowledge.

Skills.

Learning.

Explore.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: This is alumni. You can recognize by their words who is returning, so it's not the first time.

PARTICIPANTS: Community engagement.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Try one more.

PARTICIPANT: Diversity.

Empowered.

Opportunity.

Resilience.

Who are the future leaders for ICANN. We are now currently as a fellow. We become leaders as well.

Communications.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Communication. Excellent. I love hearing all these words because this is key for your participation. Learning. Engagement. Using this unique opportunity. Using your unique voice. That's why you are here. We want to hear you. We want to know you. We want you to be engaged. And we want you to use this unique opportunity being at ICANN. So, welcome to ICANN 81. And I want all of you to applaud yourselves for being here with us. Thank you.

Okay. And I would like to introduce today our meet and greet session. The idea is for you to meet those people with whom you will work later, and with whom your communication will be important to start here at ICANN 81 to be continued. Because we need continued engagement. These are the key words which you used and you found yourself while you are here. So, we will start using them and implementing and bringing the knowledge to you and the opportunity to meet those people to create and establish the network which you will take from here. So, let's be open for learning. Let's start this amazing opportunity to be a fellow and a NextGen at ICANN 81. Feel that engagement and participation. Feel that inspiration. And go with it. And the first person whom I would like to give the floor is my boss. The person I really admire and who is my role model as a manager, as a leader, as a diplomat, I

may say. And who is the Vice President for Engagement Programs where the Fellowship and NextGen programs are part of. Ergys, please.

ERGYS RAMAJ:

Good morning, everyone. And thanks for your very kind words. I couldn't describe myself that way, but I very much appreciate it. Welcome again, everyone. This is one of the most competitive cohorts we've seen for both the fellows and the NextGeners. So, congratulations to you. You made it this far, and you've earned your right to be here. As was mentioned earlier, this is a unique opportunity for you to explore what's at ICANN for you. How you could navigate this rather sometimes complex system, but one step at a time. And our role as staff is here to support you. So, please ask any questions along the way. ICANN, the ecosystem is somewhat flat in that you could reach out to anybody. You could see them in the hallways. Please stop them. Ask questions. Do not be shy. Have your unique voices, as Siranush said earlier, be heard. If you have any questions for us, if you need any resources, really our main objective and our main role here really is to support you in your individual journey. So, if you have any questions, networking questions, questions about where you might fit at ICANN—not just each other, but us as org staff—we're here to support you. And I want to stop. And, again, you're going to get a lot of information during the week. So, I don't want to bombard you with information early in the morning. But one thing that I want to do and finish this with is to say thank you to Siranush and to Deb for an amazing job. Because they truly take you guys from the beginning to the end. And they do it with care and with love for you and your journey. So, I don't want to miss the opportunity

to also thank them for everything that they do. Thank you and welcome to Istanbul again.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Ergys. Thank you. I would like to introduce my colleague Deborah Escalera. She's over there. Just everybody to see and know Deb. And introduce my team members, my colleagues who are here. Fernanda Iunes. She is here. She is leading now the Leadership Program, and she will be taking over the NextGen Program. And the person who is behind all those learnings, ICANN Learn, Betsy Andrews. She is here. So, this is my team I work with, and I have the pleasure of working with this talented group of people who are providing the knowledge and the opportunity for all the newcomers. So, we're called Engagement Programs.

Now, I want to introduce you to some key people whom you will work with in future. And I would like to start—they're called Global Stakeholder Engagement Team. And you already from today will start learning acronyms: GSE. When we say GSE team, they are our Global Stakeholder Engagement Team. So, engagement. This is one of the key words you mentioned while you are here. And this is the key for you to continue. And I would like to start with the head of ICANN 81, Baher Esmat, who is Vice President for Middle East and he is head of Istanbul office for ICANN. Baher, please.

BAHER ESMAT:

Thank you, Siranush. Good morning, everyone. So I'm Baher Esmat. I lead stakeholder engagement in the Middle East. I'm part of the Global

Stakeholder Engagement Team, GSE. I also head the regional office for Middle East and Africa, which is located here in Istanbul. So welcome to Istanbul. Very pleased to see you all here today. And as you know, we always meet and greet the fellows. Our key message is welcome, engage, take the opportunity to learn new things, connect with new people, and always seek the opportunity to learn throughout the week. It's gonna be a busy week for everyone, but it's also a valuable opportunity, even if you're not a newcomer or if you're not a new fellow. I'm sure Siranush shared the motto of "once a fellow, always a fellow," or not yet? We'll come to that. So it's always a learning process, and you always have the opportunity to meet with new people, learn new things, get into new kinds of discussions, and so on. So I think everyone is encouraged to grasp the opportunity this week, and the whole GSE team and other teams will be available for any help and support. Just reach out to us. Siranush knows how to reach us, and we'll be happy to help and support. Thank you for your participation and welcome to ICANN.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Baher. And by mentioning that we know how to reach this person, to approach this person, I would like to tell you where are the mentors for NextGen and for the Fellowship. I would like them to, like, stand up, please. I would like to thank these guys here. We still have, and we have upcoming mentor Roberto who is here as well. So these guys here know almost everything. If they don't know everything, they know who knows, okay? Same like me. If you cannot find me, you can definitely find one of them. So they know where to go, whom to ask. If

you have any questions, and we always say there is no dumb question here, just ask them. Go, see—you know the faces, right? So that's why they are here. So you know the faces now. We now put everything virtual coming here in person. So go and ask them. Thank you very much. The next person whom I want to introduce to you is—we are in Asia-Pacific. We are in Turkey. The meeting is considered to be in the Asia-Pacific region. But the Asia-Pacific region within ICANN is really big. So we have Asia-Pacific itself, and the Vice President for Asia-Pacific region, Samiran Gupta from India, who is here. And I want to introduce you to him. Samiran, please.

SAMIRAN GUPTA:

Thank you, Siranush. Again, welcome everybody to this ICANN meeting. As Siranush already mentioned, I represent the Asia-Pacific region. I'm the Regional VP and the Managing Director of the Singapore office. Now this region for us—we're kind of stretching it a little bit—but we are in the Asia-Pacific region. Where my remit starts, or our remit from the Singapore office starts, is from India and going all the way to Japan, and then all the way below to Australia and the Pacific Islands, New Zealand, all of that. And I know that there are fellows here from the Pacific region, and I'm carrying a message for you from my good colleague Save. He's unable to be here. But if you see me or my colleague Yien Chyn, please stand up. Thank you. In the hallways, feel free to reach out to any one of us. Yien Chyn is part of my team. She is also with the Global Stakeholder Engagement team. Apart from that, in the region, there are 29 of us in the APAC region, 10 of whom—or nine of whom—are here.

Absolutely delighted to spend time chatting with you, and anything we can help you with, just reach out. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Samiran. Thank you very much. We'll give the floor to Mikhail, our representative of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

MIKHAIL ANISIMOV: Thank you, Siranush, for the introduction. Welcome. My name is Mikhail, and I'm covering the Eastern Europe, Caucasus countries, and Central Asia with engagement activities. So we're doing almost the same thing, but for different regions. Glad to hear you, glad to see you, and to welcome you in one of the most beautiful cities in the world, which I personally love a lot. Please take a moment to look at it and to have a walk, not sit in big rooms all the time. Couple of advices, maybe, to you. Sessions are important. They are. But if you see some particularly interesting speaker, and if you want to come and ask a question and grab a coffee and have a discussion about some particular interesting topic, I would prefer coffee. Don't get me wrong—you can't drink coffee all the time in the corridors, for sure. Try to keep it balanced. But I would like you to remember that this is a completely barrier-less environment, and you can approach everyone, including the CEO, board member, whoever you want to. So please take this opportunity and enjoy the meeting.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Mikhail. Thank you very much. Before moving to another region, I want to introduce two ladies here who are behind the scenes, but they play a very important role in publicizing everything that's taking place here. I would like to introduce—you know these people because they may come to you and ask questions. Don't say no to them—that's not good. [Luna Madi and Amina,] please. These are two ladies you will see during the entire day, entire week, actually. So they are very important to show to the world what we are doing here and why we are here. So thank you. Thank you, ladies. Let's move to another region—Latin America. Vice President for Latin America and Caribbean, Rodrigo de la Parra. Rodrigo, please.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you, Siranush. Good morning, everybody. Welcome to Istanbul. Ah, I see some familiar faces from the LAC region. Where are the new faces from Latin America and the Caribbean?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Latin America, raise your hands who are here from Latin America. This is the group. So next time, I don't want to see all Latin Americans together.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Yeah. Mingle with the crowd. Yes. Now, congratulations for making it and being now a fellow. I was myself a fellow too, so I feel very close to this group. I was the first class of fellows back in 2007 in San Juan. So yeah, there's a future. So what else? Just wanted to tell you that we're

very happy to work with you. This is just the start of a journey, hopefully a very fruitful and long one with you. Hopefully you can also be part of the ongoing work that we're doing at ICANN in stakeholder engagement. We do a lot of activities throughout the year. It's not only the three ICANN meetings. And we want to do all of these activities with all of you. We want to engage with you. You have been carefully chosen by our community, and we have very high hopes on each and every one of you. But for now, this is your time to get up to speed, to learn all of these acronyms and technical terms, and also enjoy. You—I don't know if you chose this meeting to be a fellow or Istanbul chose you to be here, but you're lucky anyway. Remember you have three shots, and one shot being here, it's a wise choice. So thank you very much, enjoy your meeting, and if you need anything, please reach out.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Rodrigo. By the way, Rodrigo's team is like full of fellows—former fellows. And here we usually say there is no former fellow, because once a fellow is always a fellow. And during this week you will see a lot of returning alums, returning fellows coming to the sessions with the fellows, with the Next-Geners to know them, to introduce them, and guide them. So thank you for being with us, all the alums. And I started my journey as a fellow as well. So Rodrigo is from the first group of ICANN fellowship. We started ICANN fellowship in 2007. So he is the first one. I am from the third fellowship, ICANN 30, and we are here. And by telling about the fellows who are here and continue being part of ICANN, I would like to introduce you to another fellow alumnus who is now representing ICANN in the Middle East as well. Fahd, I saw

you just entered, and I want you to give the floor and introduce yourself to the team.

FAHD BATAYNEH:

Good morning, everyone. Okay, so my name is Fahd Batayneh. I work for ICANN. I used to be a fellow, and of course, once a fellow, always a fellow. It's always a pleasure actually addressing fellows. I do like engaging with fellows. And I think my only advice to you is that this is just your entry into the ICANN ecosystem. It's true that you can get a maximum of three opportunities, but don't reach number three. Try to do one, maybe two, but really try to get yourself integrated somewhere in the ecosystem. I mean, I think in a diplomatic way I must tell you, try to integrate yourself into the ICANN ecosystem. Maybe in a diplomatic way, try to also get yourself involved in some of the other internet governance initiatives. It's not a tough world out there. It's just that you must have the interest. You must show the interest. Can you dedicate time? You can definitely dedicate time. I think it's all about time management. I guess you need to create a balance between maybe if you're a student, your educational life, or maybe if you are an employee, your work life. If you have a family, you also need to create some balance there, but it's still doable. I can tell you for a fact that it's a very interesting ecosystem. So I've been with ICANN for 11 years as staff. I started as a small coordinator, and I was actually promoted to director last year. I've been trying to get out of ICANN, but honestly, it's not easy. The thing about ICANN is that we have a very noble mission. Of course, I'm not complaining about my manager. My manager's a cool guy. He is sitting in the room, so I can't say anything about that. It's just

that it's not easy to find an organization with a similar mission to ICANN. So ICANN's mission—we are not business-driven. We are not profit-driven. We are really there to ensure that the internet or the internet's unique identifier system remains secure, stable, and resilient. So yeah, two words: just try to integrate yourself into the ecosystem. It's not tough. It's pretty easy.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Fahd. Thank you. And Fahd will be actually our host for ICANN 84, which is selected to be in Oman. So thank you. We are looking forward to it. Let's move to Europe. I see my European colleagues are here and would like to give the floor to Gabi first and then Adam.

GABRIELLA SCHITTEK: Hi, my name is Gabriella Schitteck. I am working for our GSE team as well, and I'm responsible for Central Europe, the Baltics, the Nordics, and the German-speaking countries.

ADAM PEAKE: Adam Peake. I also work for the European team. "Responsible for" is not quite the right word, but I take care of and enjoy working with the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Ireland, and Luxembourg. I don't know why Luxembourg, but Luxembourg's a lovely small place. And I also look after global civil society. So if you happen to be from an NGO, a civil society organization, and are interested in what ICANN does for you and where you can engage the people that you will meet, the policy advocates that work here but also work in other sort of internet

governance forums and policy processes, let me know and we'll see if we can connect you. Yeah, have a lovely time. Good to see you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And I don't see my African colleague here, but whenever he joins, I will make sure I will introduce you to him. Oh, June. June is here. Another fellow alumnus who is now representing ICANN in Africa, June Okal. Thanks for being here, June.

JUNE OKAL: Good morning, everyone. My name is June Okal. I work with the GSE team based out of Africa. Africans in the room? I see some of you here. I see familiar faces. I hear the whoops. So my name is June—as Siranush said, I was a fellow. I actually started at ICANN as a Next Gen. Next Gen in the room? Yes, I was the Next Gen. I was Next Gen ambassador and then a fellow, and I now work for the org. Piece of advice: do not get overwhelmed. You will be overwhelmed by all the acronyms. Feel free to raise your hand and say, "What does GNSO mean? What does that stand for?" Find your niche, go into the meetings, listen, learn, ask questions. As Siranush said, when you pull out your fellow badge or your Next Gen badge, you're VIP. So you can ask anybody any question, including Göran there, our CEO, Samiran, and all the rest of the team. You can ask any question. So do not get overwhelmed. Take it slowly. Find a niche, focus on it, and occupy space. Thanks. Sorry, if I may add—sorry. So I'm part of a team of three. My colleague Yaovi Atohoun, based out of Benin, is our Director for Operations in Africa, and our Vice

President for Africa, Pierre Dandjinou, who you'll see later on in the course of the meetings.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, June. We will use this opportunity during the week to get to know more of these people. But I would like to give the floor to Patrick to introduce himself so you know who is behind the team as well.

PATRICK JONES: Hi, everyone. My name is Patrick Jones. I'm a Vice President for Global Stakeholder Engagement, and I work with all of my GSE colleagues that you've already heard from, along with Engagement Programs as part of a bigger team called Stakeholder Engagement. And we also have as part of that group our Meetings Team colleagues who help put on our events like the ICANN meetings, as well as other regional meetings that we host. You might have the opportunity after you leave this meeting to attend a regional DNS forum that we might run. In this region, we often have a Middle East DNS Forum. Africa has an Africa DNS or an Africa Engagement Forum. We recently had the LAC DNS Week in collaboration with our colleagues from the Office of the CTO, and they run an event called the ICANN DNS Symposium or IDS. And so those are the types of events that we help support, along with events where we speak and participate, such as regional and national IGFs, youth IGFs, other events like that. So if you see me here, you have questions, I'm happy to answer those. And enjoy the meeting.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Patrick. Patrick mentioned Office of the CTO. What is CTO, guys? Do you know? So whenever the person says something you don't understand, please ask him, "What is CTO?" And I would like to introduce the person who will explain what is CTO. John Crain, please.

JOHN CRAIN: Well, I'm glad I now know what my job title is. I was always wondering. So I am John Crain. I am an SVP and CTO—Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer. So ICANN is one of those strange places in the world where policy and technology meet. How many people are engineers in this room? Right. You're my people. Not you, Fahd—you're staff, you don't count. So we're sort of the geeky side of ICANN, if you like. We're not the people who run our mail servers or things like that. We're the people that really try to get down into the protocols and the technology. I'm not going to talk a lot about it, because you're going to meet my colleagues at 10:30. They're going to come and tell you about some of the technical work that happens at ICANN. Everybody thinks ICANN is policy—they keep talking about this GNSO thing, don't know what it is. I like IP addresses—I'm an engineer. So ICANN is not just about the Domain Name System; it's about identifiers in general. We'll tell you a little bit about that. You were asked for a word, and I thought the best word was probably "discombobulation," meaning confusion. Don't get confused. There's a lot happening here. I think everybody's told you this: ask people. Most of us are nice. Come to us, ask us. Most of us are really interested in what we do. Make sure you have time, because some of us like to talk about technology and things, and you might think you have a five-minute conversation and it ends up being

an hour. So take time for it. People are very passionate here at ICANN. Whether they're policy people or technology people, everybody is very passionate. Embrace that. Enjoy that. You will meet people that really, really care about what they're doing. So I guess the real word that matters here is people. It's not about technology. It's not about policy. It's about people. So make sure you make time to meet your peers, to make new friends, and to enjoy yourself. Don't wear yourself out. I myself do like to party, but I'll tell you now, if you party till midnight every night, you're going to be really tired in the mornings. So pace yourself. But do go to those events. Go to the social events. Meet people. That's what you're here for. You're here to learn about what is happening at ICANN, but you're also here to build your peer networks and to meet your future colleagues and your future friends. Most of the people who end up being fellows end up sticking around for a while. They become staff members. They become board members. They become leaders in the community. And that's because it's a passionate environment. And I suspect that most of you are also very passionate because you took the time to actually come here. So welcome to your first ICANN meeting. Unfortunately, I will not be in the IROS session—you can find out that acronym from my colleagues—but I will try to pop in. Stop me whenever you have questions. Even if you think I'm running somewhere, stop me. We're always running somewhere. Just say, "Hey, can I get five minutes?" And then we'll schedule it if we can't do it right there and then. Thank you very much, and thank you for spending the time to come to ICANN.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, John. Thank you. John, by having the—like, if I say full schedule, you can trust me that it's even more. But he always finds the time to come here and to welcome all the newcomers, which I really appreciate. John, thank you very much. And John talked about the next sessions today. There are two pillars in ICANN: policy and technical. And today, we will have the opportunity to hear from both teams. So please note how it works—technical, IROS, and IANA, as John said, you will find out what they mean and how policy works here. These are two important sessions for you to learn how ICANN works.

Then we have a couple of sessions during today and tomorrow, "Get to Know ICANN Community." These are onboarding sessions for all newcomers. It's not only for fellows and the Next Geners who are first time here, but all newcomers who come to ICANN to find out what this ICANN is—what they are doing. Every community will come to you to explain what they are doing and to find out ways of engagement. These two days, a lot of information will be there. There is a lot to digest. So it needs time also for you to digest. But this is very helpful for all of you to understand the ICANN multi-stakeholder model and how it works.

The other four days, starting from Monday till Thursday, you have the opportunity to explore and see the community in action. For example, if you hear from At-Large and have an interest in joining, they will explain how to join. But during Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, you can go and see how they work and decide if you really want to join At-Large or maybe find out something else. This is the time for you to explore. On Tuesday, the fellowship might see that there are no mandatory sessions assigned to you. But this is constituency day,

which means every constituency or community is holding their own sessions. My suggestion here—don't stick with one community only. Try to go to different communities and explore. Find out for yourself what they are talking about, how they work, and if you want to be part of this.

On Wednesday, we'll have a special session where our ICANN board and interim CEO will come and meet and greet you. They always appreciate this newcomers program because you are the future of ICANN. Your voice matters. That's why we want to hear your voice. Don't be shy and try to take this opportunity for learning. And if someone does not give you this opportunity, I would like to introduce you to a person whom I had the pleasure of meeting yesterday as well and who recently joined ICANN, our new ombuds, Ms. Liz Field. Liz, please.

LIZ FIELD:

Good morning. Hi, I'm Liz Field. I'm based in Geneva. I speak French and a little bit of Spanish. So I'm very pleased to be here. First, I just want to very quickly say what the ombuds office is. It's a resource for the community. I am independent, which means I am not under the influence of any particular part of the ICANN organization or the board. I work for the whole, so I work for everyone. I am independent, and I help evaluate complaints that you may have about fair treatment. I work with complaints under the anti-harassment policy. But more than that, I am here as a resource to give guidance, advice, and support for questions you might have about relationships and resolving conflict. I report to the board and have a background of 20 years working in international organizations and social movements, which are similar in their organizing model to ICANN, with a bottom-up approach driven by

members and community, with a board elected by the community. So I'm familiar with the ICANN model and am very committed to the multi-stakeholder model. I hope you have a great meeting. If there are any questions or issues, I encourage you to come talk to me, and we can discuss. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Liz. And I would also like to introduce Linda, who is part of our ombuds team, so you know her in person. And I also want to introduce one more person who is leading our compliance office. If there are any complaints, this is the person to go to as well. Krista, please.

KRISTA PAPAC: Hello. Good morning. Hi, my name is Krista Papac, and I am the ICANN complaints officer. I know that sounds like a terrible job, but it's actually really great. I'm responsible for helping people who have problems or challenges when working with the ICANN organization. So if you have an operational challenge—trying to get something done or information and you struggle to get it, maybe your travel process was broken when they were trying to schedule, things like that, you can come to me. I can look into it, and if there's an opportunity for ICANN to improve its processes, that's what we'll do. I've been around ICANN a long time. I was a community member once also. I'll echo what you've heard here today: any questions, anything you need help with, or anything you're uncertain about, please feel free to talk to any of us. I'm always happy

to help. Welcome to all of you—it's really exciting to see all these new faces, and I hope you enjoy your meeting.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Krista. And thank you for being here. So if we don't do our job, you know whom to go to and tell about it, right? Well, one announcement related to tomorrow. So tomorrow, 9.05, there is a one minute silence in the entire Republic of Turkey. Everything will be stopped. We, I suppose, everybody will be already here. So you will not be on the way because the transportation will stop. It will take only one minute, but this is the culture of this country and we need to respect it. But I hope that everybody will be here on time. So we will start our session and we will keep that one minute of silence here while you all will be here. So please don't be late tomorrow, not to be stuck outside somewhere and be with us here. And my request to all NextGeners and fellows, these onboarding sessions for Saturday and Sunday are especially organized for you and for the newcomers. Please respect the panelists, the people who are coming to talk to you. There will be a lot of information. It may be feeling really like I'm tired. I cannot get it anymore. But trust me, this is something important for you to start with. So if you don't open your mind now, then it will be harder to get later. But the ICANN meetings are so nice in the sense that we have all the presentations, we have all the transcripts, we have all the recordings available in several languages thanks to our interpretation team as well, posted on our website, ICANN meeting 81 meeting website, thanks to our tech team who are here also to support the sessions, but also to take care of all of this. So if you miss any session during the week, don't

feel frustrated. You always can go back and listen to the session which you were interested, but that Siranush kept you go to mandatory sessions. There is always an option to go back, to hear, to digest, to absorb all of this, because the pace of ICANN meeting and the information is huge. And we have 2,300 something onsite registered participants. You can imagine the scale of the meeting, okay? But always know if your badge says, I'm a fellow, I'm a NextGen, or I'm a newcomer, then everybody here, almost everybody is nice and they are happy to help you. So don't feel shy, just get your passion here and open yourself for the opportunity.

Before we close this session and you have some like 30 minutes break—and I would like to talk about the breaks, don't miss them. Don't miss the coffee breaks, don't miss the social gatherings. They are for you to network and always try to keep your badges in a way that people can read your name. Whenever you talk or whenever you want to go to the mic, always take your name because people will start remembering your name. My name is Siranush Vardanyan, I'm ICANN Fellowship Program Manager, or my name is this. I am representative of this country. I'm speaking on my own capacity. I am ICANN 81 Fellow, I am ICANN 81 Next Gen. Try to introduce yourself in a way you want to be recognized in future, okay? So people start to remember your name and whenever they hear your name, they will say, oh, this is like clever person, I heard something nice from this person, or don't pay attention to this person. So this is not the thing I want to hear one more time, but this is the way how we get through, [inaudible] this is the way.

So any questions? Any unclear questions for fellows and NextGeners how we will proceed during this entire week? If there is no question, one more thing, today at 5:30, we have Fellowship Social Networking Hour. It's a very official networking hour, it's for us to have fun. Come, we invited NextGeners, we invited the community, we invited ICANN Org team, ICANN board members. So come there, enjoy, have fun, there will be some drinks, there will be some food. Don't miss those opportunities. Another official social will be on Monday by the host, and I assume none of you will miss that. We'll have the enjoy and pleasure hearing the National Orchestra in the Opera Building. So don't miss that opportunity. There will be shuttles, and there will be announcement coming more about this. Will be shuttles taking you from here, but this is close like in Taksim area. I am sure you yesterday explored where is this Taksim Square next to the hotel where you all are staying. So it's, they will take you from here and then take you back to your hotel. But even if you miss a shuttle, there is always some friend coming to help us, Google. His name is Google, so you don't forget it. Don't miss them, okay? It's, yeah, the guy I also will introduce to you, just give him time to get into the room. Any questions about the week ahead? These are mics. Yes, please.

DANA CRAMER:

Hi, Dana Cramer here, a fellow. I was wondering for Monday for that event, do we bring our badges for the ticket or are we supposed to have different tickets for that for the National Orchestra?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Very good question. There is no additional tickets until we get additional note on this. But I definitely, we will need our badges and we will need this everywhere here to enter here and wherever we go as a group. So we definitely will need our badges. There will be no need for ID identification because your badge QR code already is identified. So yes, badges will be needed. I'm not sure about additional tickets, which I don't think that we might need them, but if we might need them, then our team will notify. So there is no, my boss is telling, there is no additional ticketing. So your badge will be enough to get into there, okay?

We leave at 6:30. There is some refreshment till 8:00 and the orchestra starts from 8:30 till 9:30, if I'm not mistaken, or eight to nine. So time to network and then listen to this beautiful orchestra. Any other questions? Everything is clear, what to expect? I know what to expect from you. Be on time, be there. And by saying be there, it doesn't mean just be there to sleep, but be there to communicate, to engage, to talk, to ask questions, to interact. And I will be watching because I love watching what you are doing. Because if you are not doing proper thing, which you might think it's proper, I know that this is not the way. And if there is a passion, you need to be engaged. You need to be part of this. And I am here to help you, okay? To help you, to push you to some extent, to guide you, definitely. But I am here to make this happen.

Once again, welcome to ICANN. Enjoy your first, second, third, and 45th, as like for me, ICANN meeting. But every time we feel like a newcomers. So this is what I love in ICANN. So every time you come, you find something new and you go with something new. So don't stop learning.

And the last person who came, just joined us. I would like to introduce our vice president for Europe, Chris Mondini. Chris, please.

CHRIS MONDINI:

Thank you, Siranush. Hi, I just wanna say how inspired and grateful I am that you're all here. You've met a number of members of the team, of the stakeholder engagement team. And it's really our job to find the link between what you're interested in and what you follow and the work that happens here at ICANN. And also I was reminded by my colleague, Adam, you all have a superpower. And your superpower is that you can ask anyone a question. If you go up and—I call it tug on the sleeve, say, excuse me, may I ask a question? You will get all the answers that you seek. People are eager to talk about their work, eager to talk about how they've contributed to ICANN. And we're all very eager and inspired to know that you are coming into ICANN at a time that's very important and interesting. Lots of transitions, new leadership, new programs, new developments. So again, it's a pleasure to meet you all. I'm Chris, I'm based in Brussels and really delighted to be a part of this orientation session, thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Chris. Thank you for coming. I know that these people whom you all meet today, they have very packed agenda, but they are trying to find like five, 10 minutes to come to talk to you, to meet you. With that, now you have, you know the tools, you know the ways of moving forward from now. You know the people from where you may start. Let

us all wish wonderful, enjoyable ICANN 81 ahead. And with that, this is our first meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]